

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the present application.

I. Drawings:

The Examiner objects to the drawings because Figs. 5-7 should be designated by a "Prior Art" legend. Applicants submit replacement Figs. 5-7, which implement a "Prior Art" legend.

II. The Title:

Applicants amend the title of the invention to overcome the Examiner's objections concerning the same. If the amended title is not believed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, then Applicants look forward to receiving any proposed title amendment the Examiner may care to make.

III. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-222352 to Shozo et al. ("Shozo"); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shozo in view of US 5,645,901 to Fukuchi et al. ("Fukuchi"); and claim 6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shozo. Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1, which is amended for clarification, defines "a cell substrate for a liquid crystal display panel." An exemplary embodiment of this feature is depicted in Fig. 2.

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Here, the liquid crystal display panel 10 includes a visible side cell substrate 1 and a back side cell substrate 2, with a liquid crystal layer 3 provided therebetween. The claimed "cell substrate" may be employed as either one (or both) of the cell substrates 1, 2. At least this feature, in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon in the rejection grounds.

The rejection grounds look to Shozo to teach each and every feature of the invention defined by claim 1. However, the heavy reliance upon Shozo is misplaced. This is because Shozo is from a very different technical field than that of the present invention. Indeed, Shozo discloses a transparent conductive laminate adapted for a touch panel to be installed in various devices such as a liquid crystal display. As illustrated in Fig. 3 of Shozo, the touch panel constitutes the outermost side of the device, and is operative when directly pressed by a finger M. The transparent conductive laminate is employed as an outermost panel plate P1. However, in sharp contrast to the present invention, there is no description regarding an application to a cell substrate in Shozo.

In short, Shozo is nonanalogous art since it does not relate to Applicants' field of endeavor. Further, those skilled in the art of cell substrates would not reasonably be expected or motivated to look to the art of touch panels. The two technical fields are confronted with different problems based on structural and functional differences, as well as the intended uses of the two products. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the reliance upon Shozo in the rejection grounds is inappropriate.

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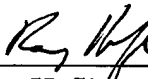
For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is patentable, and that claims 2-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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